

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Defense

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program
Scientific Advisory Board

3b. GSA

Committee No.

437

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

09/04/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

09/04/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

10 U.S.C. 2904

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

10 U.S.C. 2904

13. Effective Date

11/05/1990

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this
Fiscal Year

17a. Open 2 Meetings and Dates 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Purpose

Review FY2019 New Start projects

Review FY2019 New Start projects

Start

10/17/2017

10/18/2017

End

- 10/17/2017

- 10/19/2017

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$7,906.00	\$17,414.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$29,000.00	\$60,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$12,902.00	\$42,954.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$9,482.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$7,553.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$7,360.00	\$23,497.00
18d. Total	\$57,168.00	\$160,900.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.10	0.30

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The SERDP Scientific Advisory Board responsibilities, as prescribed by Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2904 and modified by the SERDP Council, are to: review proposed research projects equal to, or in excess of, \$1 million, however, the Council, in an effort to enhance the Board's review process, subsequently lowered the Board's dollar threshold to any proposed research projects in excess of \$900,000, and make recommendations to the SERDP Council regarding the projects reviewed; assist and advise the Council in identifying environmental data and provide analytical assistance within the scope of SERDP; make recommendations to the Council regarding technologies, research, projects, programs, activities, and if appropriate, funding within the scope of Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program; provide additional advisory support as directed by the Council and develop procedures for accomplishing these responsibilities. During this fiscal year, the Scientific Advisory Board reviewed and made recommendations on twenty eight proposed projects to the Council.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Title 10, U.S.C. Section 2904 requires the joint appointment of the members of the Scientific Advisory Board by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with Administrator of the EPA, or their designee, thereby ensuring a membership that meets the approval of all principal participating Agencies. Equitable representation between scientists and engineers, and representing women and minority groups was a principal consideration. Membership includes: The designee of the Science Advisor to the President; the designee of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; nomination(s) from the Heads of National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institutes of Medicine; nomination(s) from the Council on Environmental Quality, representing environmental public interest groups; and nomination(s) from the National Association of Governors, representing the interests of State governments. As members leave the Board, the membership is reviewed to identify areas of expertise that may require new members in order to maintain a balanced membership. With the exception of the permanent Board members, Board members, are appointed from eminent individuals in the fields of basic sciences, engineering, ocean and environmental sciences, education, research management, international and security affairs, health physics, health sciences, or social sciences, with due regard given to the equitable representation of scientists and engineers who are

women or who represent minority groups.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Meetings are conducted a minimum of four times a year, in accordance with the statute, to assist the SERDP Council to make annual programmatic and policy decisions. This is the minimum number of meetings necessary to allow sufficient time for the Board to review of all the projects being considered for funding during a fiscal year prior to making a recommendation to the Council.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Federal statute (10 U.S.C. 2904) requires the Secretary of Defense to establish this committee.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings are not closed to the public unless the DoD determines the items on the planned agenda meet the closed meeting provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c). Pursuant to DoD policy closed meetings can only be authorized by the DoD Sponsor, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Logistics, and only after consultation with the Office of the DoD GC.

21. Remarks

By statute the SERDP SAB is required to have as a member, the designee of the Science Advisor to the President. This office has not yet been able to offer a replacement for the last member who left the board in January of 2017. The committee does not issue any specific report; their recommendations are contained within their meeting minutes, which are provided to the decision maker. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2904, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reports to the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Council. SERDP does not have any subcommittees. Much of the support for the committee is done by contractors reducing the amount of FTEs necessary. The agency decided to only hold two meeting in the FY18 fiscal year.

Designated Federal Officer

Herb Nelson Director and Program Manager for Munitions SERDP & ESTCP

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Francis, Joseph	09/12/2017	09/11/2020	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hughes, Joseph	03/13/2012	03/12/2018	Dean, College of Engineering, Drexel University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Lal, Rattan	06/19/2012	06/18/2018	Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science, The Ohio State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sayler, Gary	03/13/2012	03/12/2018	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schoof, Rosalind	09/12/2017	09/11/2020	Principal, Ramboll Environ	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Webb, Robert	05/01/2014	04/30/2019	Director, Physical Sciences Division/NOAA/OAR/ESRL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The SERDP Scientific Advisory Board's (SAB) collective expertise and experience, assures that the Program maintains clear focus on technical and scientific quality and the environmental needs of the DoD. The SAB reviews all new start and continuing projects with a value in excess of \$900,000 to ensure technical quality and fiscal responsibility. Furthermore, the SAB assures that multiple projects responding to the same or similar requirements are complementary in approach and well coordinated.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The SAB makes recommendations regarding technologies, research, projects, program, activities, and if appropriate, funding within the scope of the SERDP. Their collective knowledge and expertise assures that SERDP is pursuing research that addresses high-priority requirements and fosters technology transfer. Their thorough review and evaluation of proposals, in addition to the Peer Review Panels, assists the Program in identifying cooperative research efforts that demonstrate the highest standards of technical and scientific quality. The Board plays a proactive role in identifying and defining environmental research gaps and associated technology development opportunities.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

It is difficult to put an actual dollar amount on the savings, as their contributions are significant in assisting in identifying the most effective methods, potentially beneficial research efforts, highest quality technical and scientific research, collaborative efforts, and technology transfer opportunities.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1,202

Number of Recommendations Comments

A recommendation is made by the SAB on each project reviewed during each fiscal year.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to

implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The projects are rebriefed with the SAB recommendations incorporated, or the staff provides a written or verbal report with the issues addressed.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The Program decided not to fund a project, eliminated specific tasks, delayed starting a project pending receipt of additional information or decreased funding amount and started the project as a study.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A